

CLEAN WATER COUNCIL MEETING
Meeting Highlights
October 14, 2003

Location:

NJ Environmental Infrastructure Trust, Building 6, Suite 201, 3131 Princeton Pike, Lawrenceville, NJ.

Attendees: Pat Matarazzo, Kerry Kirk Pflugh, Amy Goldsmith, Pamela Goodwin, Helen Heinrich, MaryBeth Koza, Todd Kratzer, L. Mason Neely, Pat Pittore, Carmen Valentin, Dan VanAbs and Ursula Montis.

Pat Matarazzo moved that Council approve the minutes. Lou Mason Neely seconded the motion. Motion was passed.

Pat Matarazzo announced that Larry Baier was to speak to the Council concerning the charge to the Council, but was not able to make it today. The charge will be asking the CWC to address the issue of Water Quality Trading and Community Owned Treatment Works and to come up with ideas and recommendations for these issues. A memorandum from Larry, explaining the charge, was passed out to all present. It was also e-mailed to all the CWC members prior to the meeting.

Public Hearing Comments:

Kerry – Russ Furnari had revised the original draft and we will send it out to all CWC members for review. We are also putting together the addendum, which includes the Hearing transcript, the written comments and the four presentations from the speakers at the Hearing. We forwarded the letter to Jim Grob who will comment and make sure there are no inconsistencies.

L. Mason Neely – Because of time constraints, he suggested that we take the comments, put it into final format, approve it, have Pat sign it and send it out.

Pat moved to do so. L. Mason Neely seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Joint Meeting with CAC

Pat – Our next CWC meeting is on November 18th. Most of us will be at the League of Municipalities Conference on that date. December 9th, the scheduled meeting after November, would be a more realistic date to suggest to the CAC for the joint meeting.

L. Mason Neely – suggested that when we do meet with CAC that we ask them to be prepared to address their annual report on MTBE's (gasoline supplements they put into gas to make it burn cleaner). It is a major problem in the water and one of the biggest pollutants. We had recommended two years ago that the State stop using them. They are showing up in every groundwater and reservoir system. It would be interesting to hear why it was not mentioned in their annual report and what their thoughts are on this subject, since Congress has decided to subsidize it again.

Pat – do we want to change our November meeting date?

After discussion, it was voted on to cancel the November meeting.

MaryBeth Koza – Larry has given CWC a charge. If we cancel the November meeting and have a joint meeting in December with the CAC, when will have time to work on the charge?

Pat –Probably not until January. It would have to be a project for next year's agenda.

MaryBeth suggested that we get a subcommittee together to look over the literature and examples that exist for Water Trading and then report back to us. There is a lot of data to digest before we can make any recommendations for this charge

Pat – It is good idea to get a group together to discuss this. I do not see any of the Trading scenario coming to light until the TMDL rule comes out of Washington. So nothing is really going to move until next year.

MaryBeth – Will this issue of Water Quality Trading that they have asked us to consider have an impact on the Water Quality Plan Amendment that will affect smart growth?

Kerry – this will not be a part of the rule that they are working on, this is a separate issue.

Pat – participating in the process right now is making sure that we have a voice at the table. We are involved in the rewriting of the Water Supply Master Plan, as a component dealing with use, reuse and the trading program.

L. Neely – subcommittee should be charged with the goal of figuring out what the code words are. I can see the following:

1. To figure out what the code words and the “real goals” are as opposed to the philosophical statements..
2. What is the real charge?
3. What is the process that they look to follow?
4. What is the criteria used in monitoring or trading?
5. What is the timeline?

MaryBeth – I thought we wanted to revise the Statewide Water Quality Management Plan?

Kerry – After discussion with management, it was felt that the issue of more concern right now, was that of the trading issue. Can we have a call for names for this subcommittee? I will get in touch with the subcommittee members and set up a meeting with them.

Members suggested Jim Cosgrove, Pat Matarazzo, MaryBeth Koza, Dan VanAbs, Barbara Hirst, Ferdows Ali and Kerry Pflugh for the subcommittee to study the data on Water Quality Trading and come up with recommendations for the Department.

Kerry – asked Amy Goldsmith if she was interested in being on the subcommittee for Water Quality Trading. She also stated that there is also a project through the Eco Complex and Rutgers, that Mike Dimeno is coordinating, and has to do with Water Quality Trading. The subcommittee would bring back information and ideas at our January meeting.

Amy accepted.

Kerry – called for any updates from the members that they would like to share with the Council.

Helen – (Farm Bureau) We think that the Governor will sign off on the KREP program, which is a conservation reserve enhancement program. It will provide money for riparian buffer establishment on private land. It pays for the cost of the design and installation of the buffer as well as the maintenance of the vegetation. There is also a rent paid to the farmer to make up for the loss of productivity of the land used for the buffer.

Todd Kratzer – DRBC is looking at data from the lower Delaware, which is from the Delaware Water Gap down to Trenton. We are looking at data from 2000-2003 to be used for developing antidegradation targets, so that the criteria will be developed simultaneously with the data analyses.

Pat – In respect with the Lower Delaware, and concerning PCB's, the Upper Hudson is also looking at implementing some kind of remediation. So I see PCB activity occurring on the Hudson and on the Delaware. Looking at the reports that are coming out of the Harbor Estuary Program and looking at the impacts, we may be looking at TMDL processes going up the Passaic or maybe even into the Raritan, dealing with PCB's in the sediment.

Dan VanAbs – The Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Assoc. and the Water Supply Authority have received a million dollar commitment from the EPA from their Watershed Protection Initiative. We plus DEP will be matching that with a little over a million dollars, so it's a two million dollar project over a three year period. It will be focusing on three areas: the Millstone Watershed,(where Stony Brook meets); the Somerville area,(all the area just upstream of the Elizabethtown Water Co. intake) and the So. Branch of the Raritan, upstream of our reservoirs. We will be doing some stream restorations and stormwater management work, a lot of work with municipalities on improving their internal masterplan, development review and redevelopment approaches. Also, a fair amount of work will be done with stream front property owners, taking out Stony Brook's River Friendly Program out to them. This program will reach out to river friendly residents, schools, golf courses and businesses. The whole idea is to work with them to lessen the negative impact of those property uses. Basically, they want to get

people to back off the streams and reestablish buffers. The hardest part is reaching the individual homeowner. How do we do that?

MaryBeth – You might want to work with the Riverkeepers and Project WET through the municipalities to get the word out to the homeowners.

Pat – There are two new lists of upgraded C1 streams coming out of the Governor's office. I have heard that all streams in NJ, that are in old planning area five, which is the pristine planning area, are being looked at for C1 status. There seems to be a lot of movement towards putting more streams into that C1 category process.

Pam Goodwin-I live on a stream and those in the area would like to have more information on the impacts of development, etc. I would be willing to organize a town meeting and maybe see if we can get someone to come and speak to the people on how to go about protecting the stream and environment.

Dan – Stony Brook, under the new project, is going to be hiring a full time person who will be doing nothing but River Friendly program. So get in touch with them. I think the materials are up on their website- thewatershed.org.

Carmen Valentin – Concerning our previous discussion about having a course on municipal land use law, I had contacted Rutgers and they said they do not have that course. I told them that we would be interested in developing one and that they need to get back to me and let me know what we would have to do. I spoke with Allison.

Kerry – I will try to follow up with Allison on this. This is something we could do through our education contract with Rutgers.

Koza – ANJEC may be able to help.

Dan – NJ Planning Officials run a routine program on land use.

Kerry – Nov. 7th and 8th, at the Clarion Hotel in Edison, the Department along with the Watershed Watch Network, will be sponsoring its first Volunteer Monitoring Summit. We will be unveiling, at that point, our tiered approach to data collection and volunteer monitoring. It will be an opportunity for volunteer monitors throughout the state to come together and share information and talk about data management, QAPPs, (quality assurance project plans), and the various protocols that are available, what they are used for and what their objectives are. The Commissioner has been invited. We will e-mail the flyer and information to all the CWC members.

Our new AmeriCorp Ambassadors, at this time eighteen of the twenty, are in place at their Host Agencies. They have completed their intense two week training program. I will have Christine Hirt, who is the AmeriCorps Ambassador coordinator, complete a list of their names and contacts and get them out to all of you. If you should have a need in

your area for any kind of education program or speaking on the environment, you can reach out to your Ambassador.

On the matter of the names for appointment to the CWC membership, I spoke with Gary Sondermeyer and he said that the list I gave him went to the Governor's office two weeks ago.

Ursula and I will be reaching out to the subcommittee members to set up a meeting and we will see if Larry can come to the January meeting.

Lou Neely – If the subcommittee comes up with something, I would like to see it before the meeting with Larry.

Kerry – OK

Pat – asked Kerry if she knew what the tentative dates were for the completion of the Stormwater Rules, Amendments and Surface Water Quality Standards?

Kerry – No, I don't. But I do know that everything has to be finalized by January 6th otherwise they expire.

Pat – One of the things I am finding both interesting and alarming is the fact that on a municipal level the question I am asked by the Mayors and Councilmen, is if the Stormwater rule will have anything to do with them. The word that has been put out there, is not sinking in at a municipal level at this point. They feel it will be politically pushed off and they will not have to deal with it. I will be speaking at the League of Municipalities Conference, Nov. 19th on Stormwater. The municipalities will have to pay important attention to this, otherwise they will be in trouble.

Meeting was adjourned.

